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# Livestock Disease Outlook -- 1964

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fight the disease with a sanitation and spraying program.

Based on the experience of some Iowa cities over a 10-year period, a sanitation and spraying program need cost but little more than doing nothing except remove trees as they die. Such a program can save up to 80 percent of the elms.

**Fruit Diseases:** Apple scab and cedar-apple rust were serious diseases in the home yard. Rains coming during the spring helped initiate the diseases, and large amounts of inoculum were present on infected leaves, stems and fruits. This disease inoculum will be important next year provided the weather is favorable (which it usually is).

No one knows what weather conditions are in store for your individual farm or yard this year. Certain steps can be taken to keep disease losses at a minimum regardless of weather. Your best insurance is to carry out as many of these practices as practical:

1. Plant disease-free, high germination seed of varieties recommended for your locality. Use seed certified disease-free when available.

2. Clean and treat all oats, wheat, barley, flax, grass, vegetable and flower seed before planting. Seed already cleaned and treated can be purchased.

3. Plant as early as possible in a well-prepared, well-drained seedbed. Root and crown diseases are usually more prevalent in poorly drained soils.

4. Continuous cropping favors build-up of certain soil-borne diseases. Rotate with unrelated plants.

5. Avoid excessively close and deep cultivation around corn, sorghum and other row crops. Cultivator wounds allow easy entrance for organisms producing root, crown and stalk rots.

6. Follow a good sanitation program as soon after harvest as possible. Remove, and burn garden crop debris, or plow this refuse under deeply and cleanly.

7. Apply protective fungicidal sprays or dusts on trees and bush fruits, potatoes, tomatoes, vine crops and flowers, especially those that have had foliage diseases in the past.

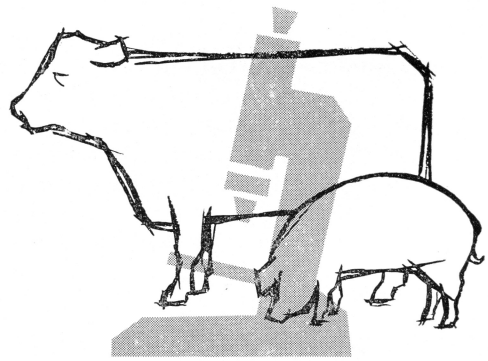
8. See that evergreens have adequate soil moisture in the fall so that they will be less susceptible to winter injury and spring diseases.

9. Eradicate buckthorn hedges and windbreaks to reduce oat crown rust losses.

# Livestock Disease Situation - 1964

**Iowa livestock producers face some special livestock disease problems. Current trends in livestock production point up the value of livestock DISEASE PREVENTION before losses occur and medical treatment is needed.**

***by John B. Herrick, D.V.M.***



CERTAIN CURRENT TRENDS in the Iowa livestock business appear almost sure to continue. Those trends include:

– Specialized production;

– Greater livestock numbers on fewer production units;

– Narrow margin of profit;

– Increased emphasis on efficient use of feed and growth rate.

For Iowa livestock producers, these trends have many implications – especially in the area of disease control. Larger production units with greater numbers and greater expected performance put extra stress on livestock. So the concept of preventing disease before losses occur assumes greater importance than ever.

In the high volume, low profit margin livestock business of the future, it will be increasingly important, probably essential, that disease prevention be incorporated with other elements of production such as nutrition, housing and handling, breeding, and marketing. Failure to use currently available methods and knowledge to *prevent* disease is one of the biggest profit drains on the livestock business today.

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## Recent Progress . . .

The past year has seen some notable progress in livestock disease control. The following were particularly important to Iowa livestockmen:

*Passage* by the Iowa legislature of the cattle and swine brucellosis bills.

*Passage* of the sheep scab control bill.

*Progress* in the hog cholera eradication program.

*Stricter enforcement* of health requirements on interstate shipments of livestock.

*Program for testing* abnormal

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## What We Still Need . . .

Two Iowa conditions aggravate the livestock disease problem in the state. One is that there are so many livestock of all kinds. Iowa has about one-fifth of the nation's hogs, 1¼ million beef cows, 800,000 dairy cows, 1 million ewes, 1 million feeding lambs, 12 million turkeys.

The second condition is the abundance of corn in Iowa. Some livestock health authorities believe this has led many Iowa livestock producers to relax their guard against livestock disease — in effect, to try to overcome the slow gains of unhealthy stock by shoveling more corn to them.

Several areas of need can be quickly identified. For example, livestock health enforcing agencies in general need more manpower and authority. It is difficult to police the movement of livestock and livestock products with the amount of supervision that now exists.

The growth of the Iowa livestock business highlights other areas of need: More veterinarians, more research on livestock diseases (Iowa has close to 4 million head of cattle, but less than $20,000 Iowa tax funds are spent yearly on research into cattle diseases), and stricter control of the sale of many so-called animal health products used promiscuously without a diagnosis or supervision of the administration of the product.

## Iowa Problems . . .

A number of livestock health problems are especially serious in Iowa. Some of them are related to our high livestock population and production systems.

- Transmissible gastro-enteritis and bacterial "build-ups" in swine cause far greater losses in Iowa than hog cholera. We badly need control measures.

- Mucosal Disease Complex has put many cattle feeders out of the business.

- Iowa's wild fur-bearing animals act as a reservoir of infection for rabies. An effective control program is needed.

- Movement of breeding livestock is essential to Iowa's livestock industry. Yet this movement aids the spread of diseases such as rhinitis and virus pneumonia in swine and vibriosis in cattle and sheep.

- We need to know much more about the effect of environment on the performance of livestock. Greater knowledge in this area would help us devise better disease control measures.

Most of the above problems are the major responsibility of veterinarians and research workers in livestock disease. Yet the livestock disease specialists cannot solve these problems by themselves. Livestock producers can help — to their own profit and to the long run profit of the livestock industry.

## Producer's Role . . .

For instance, it is to the livestock producer's individual interest to develop a herd health program in cooperation with his veterinarian that is based on the principal of *preventing* disease. To fight disease after it strikes is the high cost way.

It is also to the interest of livestock producers to help develop sound disease control legislation and to support vigilant and energetic administration of such laws.

Each livestock producer has a definite interest in painstakingly correct use of insecticides and drugs to prevent adulteration or residues in livestock products. City consumers have a wide choice of food from which to choose. Livestock producers can't afford to let them develop a "scare" reaction to their products. This emphasizes again the soundness of disease control through prevention rather than treatment.

## A Look Ahead . . .

A number of Iowa livestock producers have already moved into programs of livestock *disease prevention* developed in cooperation with their veterinarians. The successful livestock producer of 1964 and of the '70's will be increasingly characterized by his integration of disease prevention with other factors of production — nutrition, breeding and other phases of management.

The future of the livestock industry is a vital concern of Iowa livestock producers. Iowa workers in livestock disease control share that concern. So do the many businesses serving the Iowa livestock industry. To keep the Iowa livestock industry here and keep it profitable will require attention and teamwork from all three of these major groups.